ANNUAL REPORT

for the year
ending December 31, 1985

Environmental Control Council

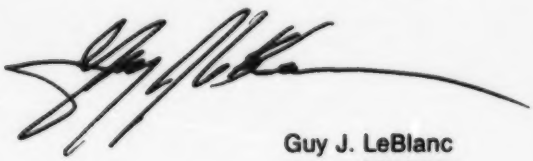
To His Honour
The Honourable Alan R. Abraham, C.D.
Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

May it please Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Nova Scotia Environmental Control Council for the year ending December 31, 1985.

I have the honour to be, Sir:

Your most obedient servant,



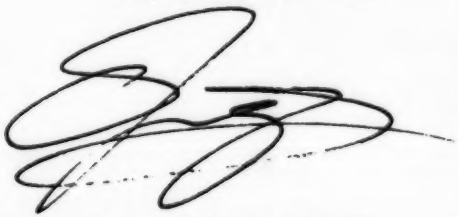
Guy J. LeBlanc
Minister

Honourable Guy J. LeBlanc
Minister
Department of the Environment
Province of Nova Scotia

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Nova Scotia Environmental Control Council for the year ending December 31, 1985.

Respectfully submitted,



Morris J. Haugg
Chairman

INTRODUCTION

The Nova Scotia Environmental Control Council is a 12 to 15 member citizens advisory board to the Minister of the Environment. The Council was established under the Environmental Protection Act, SNS 1973 c.6.

This Annual Report is submitted under Section 16 of the Environmental Protection Act and describes Council activities during the 1985 calendar year.

STRUCTURE

The Environmental Protection Act sets out the composition, function, and responsibilities of the Environmental Control Council. The 12 to 15 members are appointed by the Governor in Council to represent eleven specified disciplines. In addition, Council members are expected to reflect, insofar as possible, the concerns of their geographic communities during Council deliberations.

The Deputy Minister of the Environment is an *ex-officio* member of Council.

Membership of the Council during 1985 was as follows:

Executive Members

Morris J. Haugg, Amherst — Chairman and Member-at-Large
Paul Buxton, Annapolis Royal — Engineering
Murdena Carmichael, South Haven, Victoria County — Member-at-Large (term expired September 30, 1985)

Members

Harry Munro, New Glasgow — Legal
David R. Roberts, Bedford — Conservation
Douglas Hale, Waterville, Kings County — Academic
Richard Rawlins, Hantsport — Forestry
Sylvia Lawton, Dartmouth — Member-at-Large
Harry Cook, Bridgewater — Municipal
Stephen Craig, Lower Sackville — Industry
David MacGibbon, New Waterford — Member-at-Large
Ron Durling, Bridgewater — Medicine
Alex Hines, New Waterford — Labour
Rodney Banks, Kingston — Agriculture
Gabriel d'Entremont, Lower West Pubnico — Fishery
(appointed August 13, 1985)

Deputy Minister Arthur H. Abbott is *ex-officio* member, attending both Executive and Council meetings. James MacDonald, Sydney, is Secretary and Chief Executive Officer. Staff support for program development and office services is provided by the Department.

Council will miss Executive Member Murdena Carmichael, who completed her second term on September 30. Gabriel d'Entremont was welcomed as the fishery representative. There were no other changes in Council during 1985, and at year's end the only vacancy was that of Executive Member.

Throughout the year Council enjoyed good relations with the Department and the Minister, the Honourable George Moody. In November, the Honourable Guy J. LeBlanc was appointed Minister of the Environment. He attended the December Council meeting, and had two very positive meetings with the Executive during December.

MEETINGS

Council held four meetings in 1985, all in Halifax. The Executive met five times. The Executive also met immediately prior to each Council meeting. In addition, members of the Executive met in connection with the Ministerial Task Force on Hazardous Wastes, the activities of which are described elsewhere in this Report.

The schedule of meetings was as follows:

Executive

January 18	Halifax
February 12	Halifax
April 14	Halifax
May 2	Halifax
May 21	Halifax

Council

April 14-15	Halifax
June 11-12	Halifax
October 6-7	Halifax
December 8-9	Halifax

Other than regular Council and Executive meetings, Council was represented at the following:

9th Joint National Assembly of Environmental Advisory Councils, Quebec City, October 9-10-11, 1985.

Council was represented by Chairman Morris Haugg and Research Co-ordinator Donna McCready. Of most interest was the presentation by Alberta representatives on their Provincial Conservation Strategy. Further work will be done on this topic.

Departmental Meetings: January and February

The Executive Committee of Council, including Executive Secretary Jim MacDonald and Research Co-ordinator Donna McCready met with the department management team. Each director reviewed the functions of his division. It was agreed that Council and department would work more closely.

Following this meeting, there was a session on hazardous wastes, involving the Executive and departmental staff. This interest in hazardous wastes by Council resulted in the establishment in June of the Joint Task Force on Hazardous Wastes.

Meeting with the Minister, May 21

The Executive met with the Minister to review Council activities and forward resolutions/recommendations from the Council.

ACTIVITIES AND STUDIES

Ministerial Task Force on Hazardous Wastes

In Spring, 1985, a few incidents, both within the Province and nationally, focussed public attention and concern on the issues surrounding dangerous goods and hazardous wastes. After consideration of several options, the Minister adopted a Council recommendation to establish a Task Force to report on (a) the status of existing hazardous waste programs, (b) required improvements to existing programs or structures to address hazardous waste isssues, and (c) a recommended plan of action for the development of a provincial strategy.

The Task Force, chaired jointly by Council Chairman Morris Haugg and departmental Section Chief Derrill Hynick, included technical, policy, and public consultation expertise from the department and Council. Council was represented by Executive Member Paul Buxton and Executive Secretary Jim MacDonald. The Task Force met regularly throughout the summer, and submitted a Phase I Report to the Minister on October 31, 1985.

Major recommendations were related to the need to develop a "cradle to grave" management plan for dangerous chemicals, including hazardous wastes. Immediate recommendations addressed administrative and regulatory structures, public information needs, and inter-agency or inter-governmental co-operation. Two areas that were cited as especially important for immediate action were the development of a tracking system for intra-provincial movement of dangerous goods, and the confirmation of inventory data.

The recommendations of the Report were endorsed by Council at its October meeting, prior to submission to the Minister. At year's end, the Task Force was awaiting instruction on the next stage of its work, following the Minister's review of the Report and its recommendations.

Environmental Awards: 1984

The seventh annual Environmental Awards were presented by the Minister in June. Premier John Buchanan attended the presentation ceremony and congratulated the recipients.

At the suggestion of the Awards Committee, a special Award, called the Minister's Award, was presented to an outstanding teacher. The Committee also recommended that a new category, Education, be established in response to the numerous excellent nominations received annually for programs developed by school teachers or administrators. Council agreed that this was an appropriate reflection of the value of education to environmental protection.

Awards were presented to:

(1) Minister's Award —	Patricia Nicholson, Hilden, for her creative, integrated environmental education program.
(2) Youth —	Patricia Nicholson and the Grade III class of Hilden School for their environmental activities throughout the year. Kids at Work Club, Port La Tour School for their annual community clean-up.
(3) Citizen Organization —	Kingston Glass Busters for a recycling campaign.
Certificates of Merit —	Greville Bay Recreation and Development Group, Cumberland County Dartmouth Commons Committee Land Resources Co-ordinating Committee of Voluntary Planning — Education Project.
(4) Individual —	Charles Castell, Dartmouth Merritt Feltmate, Goshen
Certificate of Merit —	George Balcom, Middleton
(5) Professional —	Wilfred Byers, Halifax Donald Waller, Halifax
Certificate of Merit —	Shirley Conover, Waverley Joanne Lamey, Dartmouth
(6) Government —	Municipality of the District of Clare
Certificate of Merit —	Environmental Awareness Project, Digby.

Environmental Awards — 1985

The timing of the awards was adjusted in 1985 to better correspond with the Calendar year. Therefore, nominations were requested by December 1, 1985. A final review by the selection committee will be conducted in January, and Awards will be presented in March.

Local Issues

Individual Council members are requested to report at each meeting on environmental questions related to their discipline or region. During 1985, the questions about the impact of the following were forwarded to the Department:

- Dust from a granary near Kentville.
- Nitrogen from a fertilizer plant near Aldershot.
- Improper disposal of herring waste from a fish plant in East Pubnico, including leakage from trucks during transport.
- Unauthorized dumping in the Hammonds Plains area.
- Siltation from cleared area near First Lake.
- Possible effect of buried mine waste on wells near the No. 25 Colliery at Gardiner Mines.
- Industrial and domestic sewage to the Avon River.
- Odour from fox ranches.

In addition, Council maintained its interest in the operation of the Devco Coal Wash Plant at Victoria Junction, and the tailings pond near Kilkenny Lake. The tailings pond was the subject of a Council Hearing in 1980.

Water Resource Management

Council has received the report of the Inquiry on Federal Water Policy. Copies have been distributed to the Water Resources Sub-Committee for further study before reporting to the full Council.

Ministerial Orders

During the year, Council received and acknowledged copies of the following Orders:

Stop Order — Municipality of Inverness Waste Disposal Facility, Grand Etang, Inverness County, May 31, 1985.

Stop Order — John's Cove Fisheries Ltd., Chegoggin, Yarmouth County, September 10, 1985.
Compliance Order — Comeau and Saulnier Ltd., Comeauville, Digby County, October 22, 1985.
Compliance Order — Clare Fisheries Ltd., Comeauville, Digby County, October 22, 1985.
Compliance Order — Sea Crest Fisheries Ltd., Comeauville, Digby County, October 22, 1985.
Compliance Order — St. Mary's Bay Fisheries Ltd., Meteghan, Digby County, October 22, 1985.
Compliance Order — Wendy's Reliable 1979 Ltd., Halifax, October 29, 1985.
Compliance Order — I.M.P. Group Ltd., Dartmouth, November 4, 1985.

Environmental Assessment

Following the recommendations from the Tidewater (Waverley) Hearing with respect to the need for a more formal environmental assessment process, Council conducted an internal workshop/discussion on this matter. Because of the public consultation aspect of any environmental assessment process, Council views this as closely related to the broad area of environmental education.

Following the introductory workshop in June, Council reached some preliminary agreement on the format, components, and questions related to environmental assessment, especially the public component.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTER

Education

Council has a long-standing and growing interest in environmental education, and devoted considerable time during 1985 to this area.

In April, a resolution was forwarded to the Minister in support of development of educational materials for schools.

In December, Council agreed to undertake an Essay Competition for junior high schools. A committee was established to determine subject, grade level, timing, and logistics for this project.

Derelict Vehicles/Litter

Council has considered the problems of derelict vehicles and litter, and favoured adoption by the department of a leadership role in both areas.

A small group of Council members is reviewing materials on derelict vehicles, and will be introducing for Council endorsement recommendations for specific initiatives.

Council is supportive of departmental action to revise the Beverage Containers Act to better meet environmental objectives, and passed a resolution supporting this and other provincial initiatives to combat litter.

Hazardous Wastes

In October, the Joint Council/Departmental Task Force on Hazardous Wastes reviewed with Council the preliminary conclusions and recommendations of the Phase I report. These were endorsed by Council, and a resolution was passed commending the Minister on establishing the Task Force and urging him to undertake "a program to develop, in concert with other government agencies, industry, and interested groups and individuals, a strategy to control and manage dangerous goods and hazardous wastes."

Acid Rain

Following a presentation by Dr. John Underwood on the impact of acidification on forests in Germany, Council was concerned about the possible, as yet undetected impact on forests in Nova Scotia. A recommendation was forwarded to the Minister that he lobby other departments, especially Agriculture, Lands and Forests, and Fisheries, to make funds and resources available to support research into the effects of acid rain on the soil and health resources in Nova Scotia.

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

In keeping with Council practice, opportunities for the education and updating the knowledge of Council members are incorporated into regular Council meetings.

During 1985, these sessions included:

Acid Rain

Joint presentations on acid rain were conducted in April and December by Dr. J.G. (Pete) Ogden, III, of the Department of Biology at Dalhousie University and Dr. John K. Underwood of Nova Scotia Department of the Environment.

These presentations ranged from an introductory session on the phenomenon of Long Range Transport of Air Pollutants through proved and suspected impacts on water and vegetation. The December session included a report on the International Symposium on Acid Precipitation held in Muskoka in September and a report on the European experience, especially related to forestry impacts.

Water Resources

Dr. Don Waller, of the Centre of Water Resources Studies at the Technical University of Nova Scotia, presented an overview of current projects, including consideration of development on the Old Halifax Watershed Lands. The area of water resource management will be studied further by Council.

Royal Commission on Forestry

Dr. John Connor, Chairman of the Royal Commission discussed the forest resource in terms of economic, social, and environmental significance. Major areas covered in the discussion were: use of chemicals, planning, attitudes, and land ownership.

Special Places

Bob Ogilve, Curator of Special Places, Nova Scotia Museum delivered a presentation and distributed material on the administration of the Special Places Act. This legislation was supported by Council at the time of its introduction and proclamation.